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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,358	04/13/2004	Toshinao Aruga	04229/LH	4730
1933	7590	11/23/2004	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC			DUDDING, ALFRED E	
767 THIRD AVENUE			ART UNIT	
25TH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
NEW YORK, NY 10017-2023			2853	

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/823,358

Applicant(s)

ARUGA, TOSHINAO

Examiner

Alfred E. Dudding

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.  
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are allowed.  
6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/13/04.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. page 2, line 19, change "SD" to - -MD- -.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Drawings***

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Figures 1B, 3, and 6: direction arrow "AD" is not found in the specification.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Claims 1 – 38 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a. The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1 - 14 is the inclusion of the limitation of an ink jet recording apparatus comprising an ink jet recording head having a controller which controls an ejection operation of the ink of the ink jet recording head, inspects an ejection state of the ink from a plurality of the nozzles based on an output result from the sensor, and shifts an ink ejection timing every group when inspecting the ink ejection state of the ink jet recording head, a time of the shift being shorter than an ejection cycle in image recording. It is this limitation found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

b. The primary reason for the allowance of claims 15 - 28 is the inclusion of the limitation of an ink jet recording apparatus a controller which controls an ink ejection operation of a plurality of the ink jet recording heads, inspects an ejection state of the ink from a plurality of the nozzles based on an output result from the sensor, and shifts an ink ejection timing every plural nozzle columns when inspecting the ink ejection state, a time of the shift being shorter than an ejection cycle in image recording of each of the nozzle columns.

c. The primary reason for the allowance of claims 29 – 38 is the inclusion of the limitation of an ink jet recording apparatus having an ink jet recording head having a substantially a controller which controls an ink ejection operation of the ink jet recording head, relatively moves the ink jet recording head and the sensor, inspects an ink ejection state by

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causing the ink ejected from all of the nozzles constituting the nozzle column to pass through the detection light, and shifts an ink ejection timing every group when inspecting the ink ejection state, a time of the shift being shorter than an ejection cycle in image recording of each of the groups.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Correction of the specification and the drawings as cited in this office action.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

a. Kuriyama et al. (U.S. 6,527,358 B2) disclose an ink jet recording apparatus, Figure 1, clearly seen, and a sensor, Figure 2, element 82 (photo-receptor), which is provided in a drive range of the carriage (Figure 1, element 15) and provided in such a manner that an optical axis of

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detection light, Figure 2, element 83, thereof is inclined with respect to a moving direction of the carriage, Figure 2, clearly seen.


Kuriyama et al. fail to teach the claimed invention of an ink jet recording apparatus comprising an ink jet recording head having a controller which controls an ejection operation of the ink of the ink jet recording head, inspects an ejection state of the ink from a plurality of the nozzles based on an output result from the sensor, and shifts an ink ejection timing every group when inspecting the ink ejection state of the ink jet recording head, a time of the shift being shorter than an ejection cycle in image recording.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Dudding whose telephone number is (571) 272-2144. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier, AU 2853, can be reached at (571) 272 - 2149. The fax phone number for this Group is are (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

  
Stephen D. Meier  
Primary Examiner

Alfred Dudding

  
20 November 2004